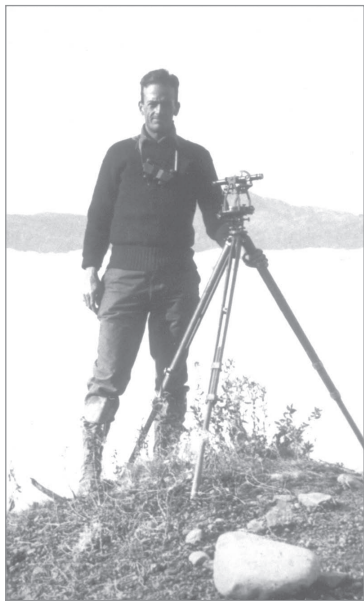




False-color image showing the Gangotri Glacier, situated in the Uttarkashi District of Garhwal Himalaya, September 9, 2001. Currently 30.2 km long and between 0.5 and 2.5 km wide, Gangotri Glacier is one of the largest in the Himalayas. Gangotri has been receding since 1780, although studies show its retreat quickened after 1971. (Please note that the blue contour lines drawn here to show the recession of the glacier's terminus over time are approximate.) Over the last 25 years, Gangotri Glacier has retreated more than 850 m, with a recession of 76 m from 1996 to 1999 alone. (Data from the ASTER instrument on the Terra satellite; measurements from the ASTER science team.)



William O. Field with a theodolite at Columbia Glacier Station 9, September 9, 1931. (Photograph from the WOF Collection, Archives, University of Alaska Fairbanks, number F-31-163.)